

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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OTPE-00 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, UN
SUBJECT: UN PRACTICE ON REIMBURSING EMPLOYEES FOR US TAXES
ON LUMP SUM WITHDRAWALS

REF: (A) STATE 121999; (B) USUN 1773

1. A SUB-GROUP OF CCAQ HAS BEEN CONVENED TO MEET IN GENEVA JUNE 27 TO PURSUE THE DIFFERENCES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS PARTY TO THE UN JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND ABOUT THE QUESTION OF REIMBURSEMENTS FOR TAXES ON LUMP SUM WITHDRAWALS BY EMPLOYEES UPON RETIREMENT. IN EFFECT, IT PRESENTLY IS AN ACTIVE ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE LEGAL POSITIONS TAKEN BY WHO AND ITU, ON THE ONE HAND (NO REIMBURSEMENT), AND THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE UN, ON THE OTHER (FULL REIMBURSEMENT). ACCORDING TO WHO ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR FURTH, THE UN SECRETARIAT HAS PLAYED AN ELUSIVE GAME, AVOIDING PREVIOUS MEETINGS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THE UN REPRESENTATIVE WILL TRY TO SLIP THE JUNE 27 MEETING, ALSO.
2. FURTH POINTS OUT THAT THE US IS DENIED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS UNDER THE PREVAILING UN INTERPRETATION,

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AND INTIMATED THAT WHO AND TIU MAY SEE THEIR CONTRARY POSITIONS BECOME REODED UNLESS A HARMONIOUS AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED SOON. BOTH WHO AND TIU HAVE EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS PENDING. A CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE INTER-AGENCY TALKS APPEARS TO BE THAT THE US HAS NOT EVEN LODGED A FIRM OBJECTION.

3. FURTH URGED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM, INFORMALLY OR OTHERWISE, WITH THE US POSITION ON THIS QUESTION FOR USE AT THE JUNE 27 MEETING. THE MISSION POLCOUNS UNDERTOOK TO RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST PRIOR TO THE JUNE 27 MEETING, AND HOPEFULLY BY JUNE 18 WHEN HE RETURNS FROM A VISIT TO THE USSR.

4. COMMENT: CLEARLY THIS IS ONE OF THOSE INSTANCES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS IN WHICH OBJECTIVITY CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED IF THERE IS ALERT AND FIRM INTERVENTION BY A LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED MEMBER STATE. GIVEN THE PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS WHICH MUST COME INTO

PLAY, THE ACTORS IN THE PLAY CANNOT BE LEFT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION AMONG THEMSELVES. ACCORDINGLY, THE MISSION WOULD URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT EITHER (A) CONVEY ITS INTERPRETATION AND POSITION IN WRITING TO THE UN SECRETARIAT AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL BEFORE JUNE 27 (WITH AUTHORIZATION TO THIS MISSION TO MAKE IT KNOWN TO OTHER AGENCIES), OR AT A MINIMUM (B) AUTHORIZE THIS MISSION TO CONVEY THE US INTERPRETATION AND POSITION TO FURTH BY THAT DATE. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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